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Powering the Movement
If there were ever a year that so comprehensively and devastatingly laid bare all that WILPF is resisting in our quest for feminist peace, it was 2021.

2021 brought the ongoing evolution of a global pandemic – an event that has starkly exposed the systematic oppression of the world’s most vulnerable, who continue to lack critical access to vaccines and adequate health care.

It brought the escalation of the climate and ecological crisis, which manifested in catastrophic flooding, fires, and other disasters while deepening hunger and poverty for so many.

And it revealed the vast inequalities that women and marginalised populations in every part of the world continue to face – at home, in their communities, and in decision-making spaces – as they bore the disproportionate and differential impacts of it all.

But there was one single event that connected the dots between all of the root causes of conflict, inequality, and division that WILPF is working to analyse, address, and transform: the moment Afghanistan fell to the Taliban.

Through the plight of Afghanistan, we saw – and members of WILPF Afghanistan experienced – the consequences of colonial mindsets, of racism, of militarism, of occupation, of power and exploitation, of corruption. We saw disregard for human rights, including and especially the rights of women, migrants, and refugees. We saw how women – particularly those working for peace and freedom – are targeted, feared, and oppressed. We saw the environmental destruction wrought by weapons and conflict.

And we saw how the international community – despite its legal obligations, despite its humanitarian obligations – turns its back in times of crisis, if mounting an appropriate response will not serve the interests of those in power.

Only together can we create change for a different future – one that is brighter, bolder, and better for all.
It has all been laid bare. For WILPF, the chaos enveloping the world has brought renewed focus to our work as we pursue, against all odds, a future of peace – a future in which all people have universal human rights. In which the systems of oppression preventing progress towards equality have been dismantled and transformed. In which people and the planet flourish in harmony.

We believe this future is within reach.

In Stories of Feminist Peace 2021, we’re sharing a look at how WILPF’s global community continued pursuing our shared vision in the midst of a year that threatened to bring the world to its knees: analysing, advocating, engaging, and acting with determination, courage, and solidarity.

To all WILPF members working for peace, we thank you for your enduring care, commitment, and time. And to all those involved with WILPF – whether you are deeply embedded in our work or a quiet champion of the feminist peace movement – thank you for being by our side.

Only together can we create change for a different future – one that is brighter, bolder, and better for all.
In the months leading up to the Taliban’s rapid takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, WILPF shared feminist perspectives, analysis, and advocacy on the situation – demanding the attention of the national actors and the international community, calling for urgent actions, and offering a platform for Afghan women and allies to have their voices heard.

As the takeover escalated, WILPF continued driving forward this critical work while providing round-the-clock support to members of WILPF Afghanistan and their allies as they urgently sought to safely evacuate from the country. Many of the Section’s members now have refugee status in countries around the world and are continuing to work hard to advocate for the rights of Afghans both inside and outside the country.

To ensure the advocacy and analysis being led by WILPF International Secretariat and WILPF Afghanistan were brought together in one place, a virtual space devoted to changing the mainstream narrative on Afghanistan was launched in September 2021.

Offering blogs on topics such as the impact of militarism in Afghanistan, the need to protect the rights of Afghans seeking refuge within or outside of the country, and the critical importance of including women in peace processes, the space also provides a series of backgrounders on key themes relating to the current situation. It also draws together our advocacy work, including statements made to the Human Rights Council Special Session on Afghanistan.

Why does the narrative need to change?

Over the past two decades, the dominant mainstream narrative on Afghanistan – that its occupation by Western forces was meant to defeat terrorism, and in so doing liberate Afghan women and build a democratic state – has been perpetuated as a means of explaining away the actions that led to the humanitarian and economic crisis now enveloping the country.
But the collapse of Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover was both predicted and predictable. For years, Afghan women leaders and human rights activists have been warning that long-term peace and human security cannot be achieved through conflict, violent intervention, extreme militarisation, and disregard for the economic and social rights of Afghans.

Through education and knowledge sharing, we’re committed to elevating advocacy and analysis that gets to the heart of the truth – and highlighting the stories and voices of those whose pasts and futures have been forever impacted by two decades of war.
To achieve our vision of permanent peace, we are deeply committed to building our movement and continuing to support a thriving global community of interconnected feminist peace activists working collaboratively for change. In 2021, we took significant steps towards ensuring WILPF’s foundations are strong and our shared goals, plans, and actions are aligned.

As part of our partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) – one of WILPF’s core funders – we participated in an evaluation of the WILPF International Secretariat’s five-year strategy *Advancing Feminist Peace 2017-2021*. Using the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, the evaluation celebrated WILPF’s strengths and offered recommendations for further strengthening our position at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

Among our highlighted strengths were our successful track record as a major convener and movement builder, as well as the achievement of significant growth across Africa – which has increased from four Sections in 2015 to 18 Sections in 2021.

The report also celebrated WILPF’s extensive efforts to advocate for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which was adopted in 2017 and entered into force on 22 January 2021 – a historic milestone towards nuclear disarmament and the first treaty to recognise the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on Indigenous peoples and on women.

The evaluation is also informing current work underway to develop **WILPF’s next International Programme** for the three-year period of 2022 to 2025. A global strategy that will guide our continued evolution and impact, the International Programme is being co-created through a participatory, collaborative process involving WILPFers across the organisation and from all regions around the world.

We look forward to continuing to engage in this journey of learning and unlearning throughout 2022 and in the years ahead.
In 2021, WILPF’s global community welcomed two new Groups: WILPF Austria and WILPF Guinea!

**WILPF Austria** celebrated its re-launch nearly 90 years after its original Section dissolved due to internal and ideological disputes in the years prior to the Second World War. The new Group has been founded to advance its members’ shared commitment to a feminist approach to peace that is intersectional, multiracial, queer, and environmental – an approach that transcends borders and advocates for the human rights of all people.

**WILPF Guinea** was established after the founding members learned about WILPF through a workshop facilitated by Sylvie Ndongmo, WILPF Africa Regional Representative. The Group is focusing on engaging community members to build understanding of and support for feminist peace, political education, and monitoring electoral processes.

“We were impressed by the size and history of WILPF. The values and objectives advocated by the organisation made us realise how important it is for our country to belong to such a group.”

Mabinty Soumah, WILPF Guinea’s newly elected President

In addition to welcoming these two new Groups, WILPFers also celebrated the staying power of existing Sections, notably by marking WILPF Spain’s 10th anniversary, WILPF Colombia’s 23rd anniversary, and WILPF Japan’s 100th anniversary.

To mark these anniversaries, WILPF Spain created a [special page](#) on their website and WILPF Colombia produced a [video](#) in which members share the concepts and approaches that represent their work. WILPF Japan made a [documentary film](#) showcasing the Section’s nuclear abolition efforts through its work to tell the stories of survivors of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
Building a global movement means creating safe spaces for feminists from around the world to engage in dialogue, share knowledge and resources, learn from one another, and gain strength through solidarity.

In 2021, as WILPFers continued to navigate the challenges and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to facilitate virtual spaces for cross-border connections and conversations.

Early in the year, we hosted a virtual session for feminists from Sudan and Syria to share their experiences of movement-building and explore cross-cultural links between their efforts, with a goal to connect local contexts with the broader global movement for peace.

In October, we brought feminists together from across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to engage in conversations about online violence and how to stay safe while pursuing feminist peace in a digital world. Listen to a podcast (in Arabic) exploring this theme in depth as part of WILPF’s Political is Personal podcast series.

And in November, the virtual WILPF Africa Regional Conference brought together feminists from 18 National Sections and Groups across Africa – WILPF’s fastest growing region. Participants reviewed their local and collective efforts, explored synergies between their work, and mobilised to deepen their shared mission to advance a future of feminist peace.

In 2021, WILPF also co-convened the 2021 MenEngage Africa Training Institute (MATI) in partnership with MenEngage Africa, Sonke Gender Justice, and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University.

This year’s MATI welcomed participants from 17 countries across Africa and focused on advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
In 2021, we deepened our analysis of the root causes of conflict and inequality through the lens of feminist political economy – an approach that looks at how our gender determines our social, political, and economic relationships and structures, and how we can work to deconstruct seemingly fixed and unchangeable economic, social, and political parameters.

Learn about WILPF’s feminist political economy approach to analysis in our new video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HULGN4HIH1c
Africa

**WILPF Burkina Faso Group**

Members of WILPF Burkina Faso engaged in multiple projects together with other civil society actors, including advocacy training on the risks of explosive devices and on the promotion of the rights of children. The Group also actively participated in the WILPF African Regional Conference and took the opportunity to gather representatives from different corners of the country for a weekend of brainstorming and planning.

**WILPF Burundi Group**

WILPF Burundi actively participated in the Stop Killer Robots Campaign. With an emphasis on the participation of youth, the Group organised a workshop and set up channels of communication with members to discuss and determine possible action to push for bans on killer robots. The Group also participated in the WILPF African Regional Conference to exchange experiences with fellow WILPFers but also to discuss the progress of WILPF Burundi and its future perspectives.

**WILPF Cameroon**

WILPF Cameroon established a Legal and Judicial Assistance Clinic in July 2021 to provide legal support to vulnerable populations and education on human rights, among other services. With this clinic and other civil society organisations, the Section hosted numerous workshops. Among them was a workshop to increase awareness of the dangers of artificial intelligence, a workshop to train youth on the use of digital communications to affect change, and a workshop for researchers working on militarised masculinities. Notably, the Section also hosted a workshop focusing on the contributions of civil society organisations to the development of Cameroon’s UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan.

**WILPF CAR Group**

WILPF CAR participated in a number of awareness-raising campaigns. On one occasion, for instance, the Group organised an event in one city to raise awareness about the illegal use of weapons in their neighbourhoods. On another,
the Group organised a workshop at a local high school to raise awareness about WILPF’s work in the context of national conflict. The Group is also one of multiple partners of the MenEngage Alliance on a journey to deconstruct militarised masculinities and further men’s support for gender equality and peace.

**WILPF Chad**

Members of WILPF Chad took part in a yearly retreat in honour of International Women’s Day. The retreat offered participants the space to share their experiences and observations of women’s living conditions in Chad, as well as training on the causes and consequences of small arms proliferation in local communities. Members of WILPF Chad also partook in a march that the Section organised alongside other women’s organisations to advocate for an end to violence against women and impunity for its perpetrators, in addition to further mobilising for the abolition of female genital mutilation.

**WILPF Côte d’Ivoire Group**

WILPF Côte d’Ivoire participated in the WILPF African Regional Conference in November 2021. Importantly, the Group organised two workshops around the conference intended to raise awareness of WILPF’s activities and their relevance to Côte d’Ivoire’s socio-political context. For example, these workshops dealt with the participation of women in the provision of security. Participants identified the opportunities and challenges for mobilisation on this issue in the region, simultaneously encouraging interpersonal and inter-organisational dialogue.

**WILPF DRC**

WILPF DRC participated in numerous projects alongside other African Sections. For example, WILPF DRC has partnered with WILPF Cameroon to research the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on domestic violence in the DRC. The Section has also played an integral part in WILPF’s initiative to mobilise men for feminist peace. As part of this initiative, realised in partnership with the MenEngage Alliance, the Section has worked to identify the factors that shape militarised masculinities and how militarisation manifests in everyday settings, like artisanal mines, and negatively impacts women. Building on a previously published report, the Section shared its findings alongside other Sections at a webinar on the mobilisation of men for feminist peace.

**WILPF Ghana**

WILPF Ghana has been actively involved in the Stop Killer Robots Campaign. One of its most prominent initiatives has been the “Arts for Peace,” which uses different mediums to advocate for a ban on the use of killer robots. The Section has also promoted public awareness on the subject through rallies, press conferences, and community workshops. The Section has worked to promote and highlight the role of women in disarmament, holding several online presentations and seminars on the topic. These emphasised the role of women’s leadership in small arms control, and were realised with funds from the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC).

**WILPF Guinea Group**

WILPF Guinea officially joined as a Group in October with the aim of encouraging the participation of Guinean women in peacebuilding processes and the defense of rights and freedoms. As part of its first steps, the Group organised a workshop leading up to the WILPF African Regional Conference, in which participants learned more about WILPF and the opportunities for Guinean women’s mobilisation and involvement.
**WILPF Kenya**

In 2021, WILPF Kenya continued its work against gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, as well as for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and UN Resolution 1325. For example, the Section implemented a Kenyan Stakeholder Analysis on Women, Peace and Security, advocated for the destigmatisation of menstruation, and organised a webinar on the Kenyan perspective on small arms in collaboration with the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC).

**WILPF Niger Group**

In 2021, WILPF Niger Group, in collaboration with other NGOs, submitted a report for the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Niger. The report centres around early and forced marriages, girls’ right to education, women’s participation in political and public life, conflict prevention, and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Moreover, WILPF Niger Group also participated in the WILPF African Regional Conference, organised a public conference on women’s role in the fight against the proliferation of firearms, and continued to engage with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

**WILPF Nigeria**

WILPF Nigeria, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Affairs and Social Development, organised a stakeholder consultive meeting on the Women, Peace, and Security framework for Enugu State. The Section also campaigned against rape culture and participated in the review of the Nigerian Constitution. In the run-up to the elections, WILPF Nigeria continued to implement the Women’s Situation Room Nigeria (WSRN) Early Warning Centre on the prevention of violence against women in elections and reported on the elections.

**WILPF Senegal Group**

2021 was a crucial year for WILPF Senegal as the group continued to build up its work and constituency. In October the group hosted a series of meetings with Sylvie Jacqueline Ndonmo, Regional Representative and President of WILPF Cameroon, to foster cooperation between WILPF Groups and Sections, strengthen WILPF Senegal, and participate in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. In 2021, the Group also advocated for access and land security for women in order to raise awareness and mobilise the local public of the Taiba Ndiaye community on this issue.

**WILPF Sierra Leone Group**

WILPF Sierra Leone continued to focus on strengthening movement building by attracting, recruiting, introducing, and engaging young people with the Group and the broader WILPF movement. By engaging women’s and youth groups, WILPF Sierra Leone Group continues to establish a culture-building approach of movement building that helps to change patterns of gender inequality and violations of women’s human rights.

**WILPF Sudan Group**

In the midst of the intensified political crisis, WILPF Sudan participated in demonstrations in support for the civil government and the democratic transition. In solidarity with other Sections and Groups, WILPF Sudan also contributed to an open letter addressing the horrific level of violence against women and girls in Tigray, as well as a call for peace in Afghanistan. In spite of the challenging situation in the country, WILPF Sudan participated in the WILPF African Regional Conference.
**WILPF Togo Group**

Under the motto “Women are mediators of peace”, the WILPF Togo Group *sensitised women of Dégomé* to the important role they play in maintaining peace and preventing conflicts. In doing so, WILPF Togo Group aimed to *strengthen peace within communities* as a basis for security for all people and to contribute to a sustainable peace based on justice and freedom. In 2021, the Group also strengthened its communication infrastructure, initiated capacity-building activities, and contributed to the *Campaign to Stop Killer Robots*.

**WILPF Uganda**

During the unrest leading up to the 2021 elections, WILPF Uganda sought to mentor youth and urge them to spread the message about the importance of maintaining peace. Together with other African Sections and Groups, WILPF Uganda also participated in the WILPF African Regional Conference.

**WILPF Zimbabwe**

WILPF Zimbabwe followed up on activities of previous years and *strengthened men’s commitment* to women’s rights, gender equality, and peace in partnership with MenEngage Alliance. In 2021, the Section also focused on campaigning against killer robots by participating in WILPF Cameroon’s webinar *Human Rights and Killer Robots*, and organising workshops for civil society and government representatives on various aspects of killer robots, including the gendered dimension. WILPF Zimbabwe also *submitted a report* for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Zimbabwe providing recommendations relating to the impacts of the economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic on women’s and girls’ rights.
WILPF Argentina Group

WILPF Argentina held seminars to train new leaders in communication technologies and on UNSCR 1325. The project was conducted over a six-month period, with workshops for women leaders and youth. The workshops aimed to train women leaders on communication, community development, and social policies. In doing so, they provided participants with tools to support their decision-making capacity and income-generating activities in order to help alleviate social and economic poverty.

WILPF Colombia

2021 marked WILPF Colombia’s (LIMPAL Colombia) 23rd birthday as well as a year of struggle within the country. The Section actively responded to the violent reaction of security forces to the National Strike, issuing its own statement and signing others alongside other activists and human rights organisations. LIMPAL Colombia has also developed and engaged in multiple grassroots projects. For example, the Section held several workshops for the young daughters of women community/social leaders to teach them about gender and women’s mobilisation, and created several spaces through workshops and meetings for women community/social leaders themselves. The Section has also worked hard on a new YouTube series called Transgresoras that highlights the experiences of women working to secure human rights and mobilising against militarisation in Colombia. Notably, the Section also wrote numerous letters and statements directed at regional leaders, including letters to Latin American embassies and presidents to express support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and a letter to Congressional representatives denouncing the training of civilian police officers at WHINSEC (a U.S. military base notorious for training students who go on to commit human rights abuses).

WILPF Costa Rica

WILPF Costa Rica hosted a series of workshops on climate change and peace to raise awareness among and train women leaders in the community and in political positions on sustainable policies and programmes. Notably, the Section also wrote numerous letters and statements directed at regional leaders, including letters to Latin American embassies and presidents to express support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and a letter to Congressional representatives denouncing the training of civilian police officers at WHINSEC (a U.S. military base notorious for training students who go on to commit human rights abuses).
WILPF Canada

WILPF Canada continued to apply a critical lens to the Canadian government's policies. For example, the Section hosted a webinar titled *Canada's Feminist Foreign Policy: Rhetoric or Reality?*. The Section also denounced Canada's support for nuclear deterrence and urged Canadian officials to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In November, the Section joined a campaign criticising the government's decision to purchase new fighter jets given their impacts on the climate, thus making connections between climate change and militarisation. Overlapping with 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women, this campaign also denounced the government's disproportionate investment in the jets compared to gender equality initiatives.

WILPF US

WILPF US focused on mobilisation around various issues. For example, the Section called for action against the war in Yemen and events in Afghanistan and Colombia, protecting Palestinian families, anti-racism initiatives, celebrating Earth Day, and pushing for ratification of the TPNW. To this end, WILPF US produced four resource guides describing the treaty. The Section also organised various webinars and panels on honouring African women, women, power and social justice, advancing transwomen of colour, and war and its impacts on the climate crisis. In addition, WILPF US has, among other things, created a counter-recruiting project that brings veterans into high schools and colleges to offer a different view of what life in the military is really like, published statements on anti-racism and the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, spoken out at the Human Rights Council against US border policies, police brutality, and arms sales, redesigned the website Military Poisons, and produced four new resource guides on why the US military budget should be reduced.
WILPF Aotearoa

WILPF Aotearoa celebrated the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January 2021. The Section also partook in a webinar titled *Feminist Critiques of Militarisation* to discuss their work on disarmament and the risk of militarisation in their region. Notably, WILPF Aotearoa denounced the government's militarised budget in a report titled *Towards a Feminist Budget*. The report outlines the costs of maintaining the military and the negative consequences that this has on women, as well as society more broadly. Their report emphasises the need for a feminist budget, outlining the ways in which government money could be otherwise—and better—spent.

WILPF Australia

WILPF Australia used numerous mediums to advocate for demilitarisation in 2021. The Section celebrated the implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with a webinar to “Celebrate a Nuclear Weapon-Free Future”. The Section also released a research report titled *Militarisation in Australia: Normalisation and Mythology*, which identified how national militarisation is a cause for concern. Building on this report, the Section launched a *Demilitarisation Campaign* in October to promote alternatives to Australia’s current militarised objectives.

WILPF Japan

WILPF Japan celebrated its 100th birthday in 2021. For Japan, nuclear power plants continue to be a pressing issue, and the Section has continued to mobilise for nuclear abolition. For example, members of the Section put together a documentary that highlights the experiences of residents of Fukushima, the site of a major nuclear power plant incident in 2019. The Section also issued a statement denouncing the government’s decision to release the contaminated water from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Members of WILPF Japan also prepared various materials to commemorate nuclear events, including the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War, as well as the 10th anniversary of the nuclear crisis that followed the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.
WILPF Austria Group

After a decade-long break, WILPF Austria celebrated its re-establishment with an event that looked back at the commitment of our foremothers. In collaboration with WILPF Germany, the Group also published a statement on Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, and, in light of the events in Afghanistan, engaged in a joint declaration of solidarity.

WILPF Denmark

WILPF Denmark’s activity has largely focused on the questions of nuclear armament. Members from the Section joined WILPFers from other Nordic Sections for a meeting to discuss nuclear militarisation, relations to Russia, the 2022 WILPF Congress and human refugee policy and safe migration. The Section also partnered with WILPF Finland to issue a statement calling on Nordic governments to act on a proposal to establish a Nordic nuclear-weapon-free zone.

WILPF Finland

WILPF Finland has continued its work on nuclear disarmament alongside other Nordic WILPF Sections. For example, WILPF Finland participated in a seminar focused on promoting peaceful Nordic-Russian relations, strategies, and resolutions. Members from this Section also joined WILPFers from the other Nordic Sections at a meeting in Gothenberg to discuss Russian relations and nuclear militarisation. Notably, the Section also partnered with other Nordic WILPF Sections to issue a statement calling on Nordic governments to act to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and establish a Nordic nuclear-weapon-free zone.

WILPF Germany

In 2021, WILPF Germany engaged in various conferences, webinars, statements, and advocacy work. The Section delivered multiple (joint) statements on a wide range of issues, including the release of women peacebuilders, prisoners of war, and human rights defenders from detention, Afghanistan, Myanmar, International Women’s Day, violence in Palestine and Israel, and Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. The Section also participated in the IPB World Congress, discussed global militarisation, peace policies, and security, the events in Myanmar, and the connection between disarmament and climate justice in webinars, and published research reports and policy briefs on Germany’s foreign and (dis)armament policy. In addition, the Section took part in an online meeting with women from Belarus, and awarded the Rebel Against War – Anita Augspurg Prize to Efi Latsoudi. Section members can also be heard regularly live on Radio Lora.
WILPF Italy

In partnership with local peace and environmental activists, WILPF Italy has continued its Make Cheese, Not War campaign, advocating for a Sardinian arms factory to be turned into a regional dairy centre. The Section has also continued to push for disarmament in other ways as well, calling on the Italian parliament to ratify the Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and launching initiatives for anti-nuclear coordination in Europe. Notably, the Section also mobilised for COP26, emphasising feminist action for climate justice.

WILPF Netherlands

WILPF Netherlands is increasingly organising around the issue of killer robots and armament. In 2021, the Section prepared a public awareness and advocacy handout to be used in the run-up to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. In the lead-up to the national elections, WILPF Netherlands also investigated what the election manifestos of the Dutch parties say about killer robots and nuclear weapons. In addition, the Section organised a No-To-NATO action week.

WILPF Norway

To focus on peaceful solutions for fruitful relations between Nordic countries and Russia, WILPF Norway hosted a seminar about Nordic-Russian relations in November 2021. Moreover, the Stavanger Group of WILPF Norway planned a Peace Posters Exhibition in December in collaboration with the City Cultural Department of Stavanger. In addition, the Section participated in the Nordic meeting in Gothenburg. In light of the events taking place in Afghanistan, the Section also contributed to a collective solidarity statement.

WILPF Spain

WILPF Spain’s advocacy took a number of different forms in 2021. Like other Sections, WILPF Spain has called on the Spanish government to sign the Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, making monthly blog posts on the issue of nuclear weapons as part of its campaign. The Section also issued statements and wrote letters to Spanish government officials on numerous issues, highlighting the role that EU arms exports were playing in the National Strike in Colombia, for instance, and calling on the Spanish government to intensify its diplomatic efforts to achieve peace in Afghanistan in light of the deteriorating security situations in these countries. Members of WILPF Spain also published a report titled The Human Rights of Seasonal Migrant Women in Andalusia, which investigated the abuses committed against Moroccan seasonal workers in the Andalusian region of Spain.

WILPF Sweden

WILPF Sweden continues to mobilise the Swedish public and government to ban killer robots. In 2021, the Section held a workshop for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on killer robots and gender, produced information materials for WILPFers and the public, featured in a Channel 4 news piece, mobilised other civil society organisations, and organised an Instagram Live on killer robots and regional gendered aspects with WILPF Ghana. WILPF Sweden also launched a project on environment, feminism, disarmament, and militarisation. Part of this project was a series of webinars, interviews, and local projects in branches. In addition, the Section participated, among other things, in a joint statement on International Women’s Day, the celebrations of the entry into force of the TPNW, the WILPF Nordic-Russian seminar, and advocacy on the events in Afghanistan, and organised a fully digital WILPF Sweden Congress.
**WILPF Switzerland**

In commemoration of the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Section participated in memorial ceremonies across the country. The Section also organised multiple screenings of the film *The Pacifist* about the life of Gertrud Woker, co-founder of WILPF and WILPF Switzerland. WILPF Switzerland also took part in a pan-European WILPF meeting in July, and co-organised the 4th Swiss Peace Conference in June.

**WILPF UK**

WILPF UK continued to engage in the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. In this context, the Section made a submission to the Foreign Affairs Committee calling for a legally binding instrument to pre-emptively ban Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS). WILPF UK also organised an exhibition on COP26 and presented an online art exhibition entitled *Peace No Nukes* to celebrate the entry into force of the TPNW. Moreover, the Section followed up on 2020 activities and continued its social media series on the impacts of COVID-19 in various countries, and planned both the screening of the film Objector for the International Conscientious Objectors Day and a seminar about women and peacebuilding in Cyprus.
WILPF Lebanon

Despite the deepening economic crisis in the country, WILPF Lebanon remained involved in various activities throughout 2021. For example, the Section worked in partnership with MenEngage Alliance to understand how men can support women’s rights, gender equality, and peace. WILPF Lebanon also organised a webinar on challenges and hopes in the current situation in Lebanon and a discussion on the topic of current challenges in the Middle East in cooperation with WILPF Palestine and WILPF Germany. In addition, the Section published a statement on the current struggle for justice and security in Lebanon.

WILPF Palestine

In the run-up to the (later cancelled) 2021 elections, WILPF Palestine actively campaigned for women’s political participation. In addition, in light of the events happening in Sheik Jarah, the Section organised both a talk with a woman whose home was confiscated and a webinar on the situation and the ongoing and escalating violence in Palestine, as well as on the long history of WILPF’s involvement in the region. WILPF Palestine also participated in a joint statement on the release of women peacebuilders, prisoners of war, and human rights defenders from prison.
WILPF Afghanistan

In response to the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban and its targeted attacks on civil society members, WILPF Afghanistan issued several statements calling on the international community to stand in solidarity with Afghan people and ensure that their rights be upheld, including access to aid. The Section also published 100 Untold Stories of War and Peace, a compilation of true stories that highlight the effects of war and militarisation on the region.

WILPF India

Among its activities in 2021, WILPF India organised several educational community events. In honour of International Women’s Day, for instance, the Section ran a full-day seminar that addressed WILPF’s work, the challenges that women face in India, and avenues for action and learning. Later in the year, the Section also organised another event – this one a lecture titled Social Reconstruction of Gender.

WILPF Sri Lanka Group

WILPF Sri Lanka Group participated in both a statement of solidarity for Afghanistan and a statement on the events in Sheikh Jarrah and across Palestine. The Group mobilises mainly on social media and launched, for example, a social media campaign with videos on men’s commitment to gender equality. In addition, WILPF Sri Lanka focused on intergenerational work and implemented a project to engage young WILPF members to support their leadership development journey and strengthen women’s self-help groups in selected districts.
To draw attention to the devastating impacts of military activity on climate change and environmental degradation, including the racialised and gendered impacts of militaries’ environmental footprints, in 2021 we deepened our collective global efforts to demand urgent action to address militarism as a root cause of the climate crisis.

WILPF Sections from around the world mobilised to participate in COP26, coming together in Glasgow to advocate for a spotlight on the environmental impacts of militarism. WILPF Sweden hosted a series of webinars sharing feminist perspectives on militarisation, environment, and the climate. On International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, we demanded that demilitarisation, disarmament, and decolonisation be recognised as necessary steps towards decarbonisation and a future of peace.

We issued a submission to the Commission on the Status of Women and supported joint civil society statements on military emissions and against nuclear power as a solution to the climate crisis at COP26. Together with the Conflict and Environment Observatory, we developed a white paper on environmental peacebuilding calling for recognition of the massive contributions of militarism to the climate crisis and of degrowth as a necessary step towards peacebuilding. And we granted funds to Sections and Groups working on issues related to disarmament and the environment.

As the climate emergency accelerates, we will not stop. As a global community, we are advocating, analysing, mobilising, and demanding change for the future of the planet and all living beings that call it home. Weapons and war are incompatible with our collective survival.
The past year brought focus to our global efforts to highlight the human rights impacts of weapons and our call for disarmament as a necessary step towards the achievement of peace and human security.

In 2021, we continued to raise the profile of weapons issues within human rights fora and disarmament spaces – including a submission to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) examining the human rights impact of firearms on children and youth; submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee about human rights, arms transfers, and nuclear weapons; a submission to the UN CEDAW Committee on the use of arms in internal repression and the impacts of surveillance technologies; and a submission to the UN Working Group on Mercenaries regarding the human rights implications of cyber mercenaries.

Across Africa, 17 WILPF Sections organised events in partnership with the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC) for the #bulletproofinclusion campaign to draw attention to the impact of small arms and light weapons on women’s safety and well-being.

We also worked extensively on a resolution of the UN Human Rights Council relating to weapons transfers and contributed to conversations about how to prevent businesses from negatively impacting human rights, specifically in relation to weapons and conflict.

“Small arms affect people of different genders in very specific ways, both as perpetrators and as victims, and often in relation to gender roles and expectations. (…) They can increase women’s vulnerabilities: they make it easier for men to commit sexual violence, make domestic violence more deadly, and facilitate human trafficking.

But the possession and use of guns are also linked to the perpetuation of violent masculinities and the militarisation of communities, which in turn affect women and men alike.”

From blog on GENSAC’s #bulletproofinclusion campaign
In partnership with the **MenEngage Alliance**, in 2021 WILPF launched a **new initiative** to shine a light on the concept of “militarised masculinities” and to mobilise men for feminist peace.

Through this project, WILPF is working in ten countries around the world to conduct on-the-ground research and actively educate and mobilise men to speak up for women’s rights, gender equality, and peace. In 2022, the project team will be launching a series of documentary films telling the story of efforts in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, and the DRC to mobilise men to counter militarism and support peace. The team will also be publishing nearly 20 reports based on original research that draws together findings at both the global and country levels.

In December 2021, the project team was thrilled to announce a new photography competition inviting photographers from all over the world to submit photos and photo essays responding to the concept of militarised masculinities and their alternatives. The submitted images documented the relationship between masculinities, conflict and peace, and violence and care.

Submissions are being judged by a high-profile jury convened by Pete Muller, winner of the 2015 World Press Photograph of the Year and long-time chronicler of divergent forms of masculinities. The jury includes Donna Ferrato, famous for her work to document the impact of domestic violence; multi-award winning Jahi Chikwendiu from the *Washington Post; National Geographic’s* Regional Director for Latin America, Gael Almeida; *The Atlantic’s* Visuals Editor, Jehan Jillani; artist, artistivist, and cultural vigilante, Tasha Douge; and *TIME’s* Editor at Large for Special Projects, Paul Moakley.

We invite you to view the shortlisted images and check back for an announcement about the winners on Tuesday, 15 March 2022! 

2021 brought the launch of Caesura – a five-episode podcast celebrating women and our common work for peace, freedom, and equality.

Meaning “pause” in Latin, Caesura – a collective project developed by WILPF – invited listeners to take a moment out of their day to become immersed in the words of Colombian poet Ángela Ramos and hear from an exceptional panel of guests from all over the world.

Each episode examined topics such as intergenerational trauma and wisdom, the logic behind global security, the role men can play in elevating women’s voices, and much more.

Come take a break with us: Listen to Caesura now.

caesura.wilpf.org
Taking Action for Gender Equality

Throughout 2021, WILPF deepened its work for global gender equality through participation in the development of the new Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, and monitoring of the Generation Equality Forum. A multi-stakeholder, worldwide gathering that kickstarted a five-year goal to accelerate ambitious action towards gender equality and women’s rights, the Forum was convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France.

In advance of the Forum, WILPF launched a series of policy briefs exploring thematic interlinkages between the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the topics of the six Generation Equality Action Coalitions to help shape the coalitions’ work. These briefs aimed to bring peace and demilitarisation into the Forum’s discussions, and demonstrate why these issues are so critical to advancing women’s rights.

Early in the year, WILPF was selected as a Catalytic Member of the new Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action – one of the key outcomes for the Forum. In the coming years, WILPF will leverage this role to help drive tangible progress towards global gender equality by supporting the work of women peacebuilders and peace activists and advocating for demilitarisation and disarmament.
Towards a Future of Feminist Peace in Yemen

More than seven years after the conflict in Yemen began, peace remains out of reach in a country now devastated by the human, economic, and environmental costs of war.

Nearly 250,000 people have died, whether due to fighting or lack of food and health services. Four million people have fled their homes and the majority are now internally displaced. And five million more are on the brink of famine, including 2.3 million children under five who are severely malnourished.

It’s known as the worst humanitarian disaster in history. And it’s disproportionately impacting women, who face continuously growing rates of gender-based violence, exclusion from meaningful economic and political participation, and the intense pressures of protecting and caring for children, family members, and communities under profoundly challenging circumstances.

The path to a future of peace in Yemen must start with the development of a just and sustainable peace agreement – one that addresses structural violence, employs a gender lens, and centres the lived experiences and participation of women.

To help the country take steps towards peace, over five days in June and July 2021, WILPF, Peace Track Initiative, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, hosted the Yemen Feminist Peace Convening – a series of roundtables and interactive dialogues to discuss the root causes of conflict in Yemen, current peace efforts, and feminist policy options.

Welcoming Yemeni academics, experts, peace activists, and allies from all over the world, the Convening also collected feedback about the Feminist Peace Roadmap – a guiding framework for the achievement of peace in Yemen.

Developed in collaboration with a wide range of women peace activists and organisations – including nearly 200 women and men with lived experience of the ongoing conflict and its consequences for health, education, justice, and human rights – the Feminist Peace Roadmap strives to inform an inclusive and accountable peace building process.
In 2021, WILPF’s global community of donors, government partners, and private supporters stepped forward with generosity, compassion, and determination to advance a future of feminist peace, justice, and equality for all.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each of our 17 dedicated donors – including three who joined us in 2021. Together, we are building a brighter, bolder future for everyone.

Together, we are building a brighter, bolder future for everyone.

Please visit our website at wilpf.org to view a full list of donors and supporters. Our audited financial statements are available upon request.

https://www.wilpf.org/financials/
The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation with national Sections covering every continent, an international Secretariat based in Geneva, and an office in New York.

Since our establishment, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace. Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.